

## HOW CAN A PROPER NATURA 2000 SITE DESIGNATION CONTRIBUTE TO THE CONSERVATION OF BATS?

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The Habitat Directive of the EU gives new opportunities for the protection of bats in Romania. Natura 2000 sites designated in a proper way could assure the protection of feeding areas and roosting places of bat species. The site proposals made by the Romanian Government, the results of the researches made by the Romanian Bat Protection Association and the published distribution data were compared and a national population estimate of the 13 Annex II species has been prepared in the present work.

As a result of comparing the data provided by the Romanian Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development with the data of the Romanian Bat Protection Association, we consider that it would be very important to designate more sites for conservation in order to assure the better protection of the feeding and roosting areas of bats and to assure the coherence of the Natura 2000 network. In our proposal we suggest designation of more areas, the modification of the border of 5 already proposed territories, the fusion of the border of some sites, and inclusion of bats as reference species in those proposed SCIs where data on bats are missing or deficient.